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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERAGENCY TEAM TO STUDY EFFECTS OF SPOTTED OWL PROTECTION PROPOSALS

WASHINGTON, April 11--The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have established an interagency working group to study the economic effects of adopting the proposals for protection of the northern spotted owl presented in Washington on April 4 by an interagency committee of scientists.

The new joint working group will report to Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson and Bureau of Land Management Director Cy Jamison in early May on (1) the range of potential economic effects that could occur if the scientists' recommendations were to be implemented, and (2) possible federal actions that could mitigate adverse social and economic effects.

J. Lamar Beasley of the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Joe Zimmer of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management will head the interagency working group. Beasley is currently Director of the Forest Service's Southeastern Forest Experiment Station in Asheville, North Carolina. Zimmer is the Bureau of Land Management's Deputy Director for Renewable Resources in Boise, Idaho. The working group may be expanded as needed to include other federal agencies.

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